

REMARKS

The independent claims have been amended to remove the material added in the amendment accompanying the request for continuing examination. It is noted that the same claims indicated to be allowable in the last response were also indicated to be allowable before the amendment that accompanied the RCE.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3, indicated to be allowable. The intervening claim has not been included and it is not believed to be important to the patentability of amended claim 1.

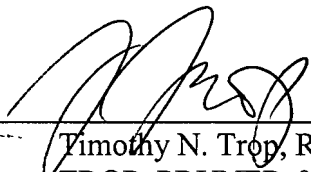
Similarly, claim 15 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 17, indicated to be allowable. The intervening claim 16 has not been included for the same reason.

Claim 24 has been amended to include the subject matter of former dependent claim 26, indicated to be allowable. The intervening claim 25 was not included for the same reason.

In view of these remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 19, 2007



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